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TODAY - January 26, 2009

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TODAY

- ♦ LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
- ♦ LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
- ♦ LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
- ♦ LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER—EAST CAMPUS
- ♦ LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY BEHAVIORAL MEDICINE CENTER
- ♦ LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY HEALTH CARE
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LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

'Come Unto Me' sculpture graces entrance to Loma Linda University Medical Center

BY JAMES PONDER
"Come Unto Me"—a bronze sculpture of a smiling, happy Jesus Christ welcoming an assortment of eight people and three dogs into the circle of His friendship and healing—calls patients, visitors, and staff to an encounter with the pivotal figure in human history from its new location in a sunny alcove to the right of Loma Linda University Medical Center's main entrance.

To stand in the sculpture garden and walk among the multiple bronze statues composing the installation conveys an impression that not only the Man of Sorrows, but also his human and animal friends, seem like they're having a wonderful time. Sculptor Victor Issa took great care to register a broad range of positive emotions on the faces of everyone sharing in the imaginative encounter.

The expression on the face of Jesus radiates kindness, approachability, and acceptance. The work evokes the story in the 19th chapter of Matthew where Jesus welcomed children into fellowship despite the protests of His own misguided disciples who, in reflecting the elitist attitude of their times, felt

that religious leaders were too important to socialize with children.

Victor Issa's 21st century interpretation of the story invites viewers to believe that the Son of Man is equally open to people today. The ancestry of the people depicted reflects the multi-

ethnic diversity not only of the Inland Empire, but of Southern California as a whole.

In one segment of the installation, a young girl and an adult male, apparently a physician, assist an elderly gentleman into the presence of

Christ. Behind them, a young boy of maybe 5 or 6 years of age races ahead of his mother to join the event. To the left of the teacher, a young woman hands a bouquet of flowers to a young girl. At the feet of Jesus, a golden retriever and her pup watching a light-hearted scenario playing out as a second puppy reaches forward to lick the face of a young boy seated next to the teacher.

The installation occupies a somewhat oblong space measuring approximately 14 feet wide by 28 feet long, and attains a maximum of height of roughly six feet.

At the unveiling on Monday, January 12, 2009, Gerald R. Winslow, PhD, vice president for mission and culture, welcomed guests to the festivities and noted the unseasonably warm weather, which prompted some attendees to shield their heads from the heat of the sun. James Greek, DMin, director of chaplain services, offered the invocation, asking God to bless the ministry of the sculpture as well as the Medical Center as it seeks to cooperate with God in the ministry of heal-

Please turn to page 4



An overview of the nine-figure sculpture garden, "Come Unto Me," by Victor Issa. Mr. Issa, whose work in bronze is internationally acclaimed, acknowledged that creating an imaginative retelling of the life and mission of Jesus challenged him to the core. But under the influence of the Spirit of God, the set invites viewers to unexpected encounters with Christ. The work now resides in a special alcove to the right of Loma Linda University Medical Center's main entrance.

Trustees approve new administrative appointment

BY DUSTIN JONES, MA
During its December meeting, the Loma Linda University Board of Trustees approved changes in the administrative structure of the University by creating the position of University provost. The provost functions as the chief academic officer, reports to the president, and works closely with the deans on all university academic matters.

The establishment of the office of the provost is accompanied by the decision not to fill the position of chancellor left vacant by the appointment of Richard Hart, MD, DrPH, to the position of president of LLUAHSC and the University. As a result of this change, the designation of chancellor and vice chancellor will no longer be used. All vice-chancellors will use their vice-president designations.

The Board named Ronald L.

Carter, PhD, who has served as vice-chancellor for academic affairs, as the new provost, effective immediately.

Dr. Carter received his undergraduate education at Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, Maryland, graduating in 1969 with a degree in biology. He completed his doctor of philosophy degree in biology in June 1971 from Loma Linda University. From 1989 to 1991, Dr. Carter took postdoctoral training in molecular systematics at Rancho

Santa Ana Botanic Garden, a division of Claremont Colleges School of Graduate Studies, Claremont.

Dr. Carter's professional career includes serving as associate pastor of the Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church from 1974 to 1976. In August 1976, Dr. Carter served as associate pastor and college chaplain at Walla Walla College Church, College Place, Washington. He received his ministerial ordination in the fall of 1977.



Ronald L. Carter, PhD

Second careers benefit Children's Hospital, volunteers

BY JAMES PONDER
At first glance, it might not seem that Raylene Phillips, MD, and Tom Kite, RN, have much in common.

Take the issue of treasured possessions, for instance. Dr. Phillips wears a gilded starfish, which means a lot to her, on a chain around her neck. Mr. Kite, on the other hand, owns a large stone axe head his father found at a prehistoric ruin in Arizona.

Their early careers similarly offer little in the way of overlapping interests. Mr. Kite started

out as a photographer at the University of Arizona but soon



Raylene Phillips, MD

switched gears and spent the next 34 years as an air traffic



Tom Kite, RN

controller from the Los Angeles Center—the full title of the facility is half a mile long—in Palmdale, California.

Dr. Phillips stayed closer to the ground for the first three decades of her adult life. Lots closer to the ground—so close that she was often bending over to scoop up a baby and hold it in her arms. "Being a mom was always my first career of choice," she reveals.

So what do they share in common? Much more than meets the eye.

Please turn to page 2

Second careers benefit Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, volunteers...

Continued from page 1

For starters, Dr. Phillips and Mr. Kite are both at the age when many are thinking about retirement, yet they're taking on new challenges at this juncture in their lives. And they share a common interest in their love of babies.

Lots of people love babies, but Mr. Kite and Dr. Phillips take the fine art of loving babies, caring for them, and learning everything they can about the medical and developmental needs of babies to new heights. So at an age when the majority of their peers were longing for retirement, Dr. Phillips and Mr. Kite went back to school to launch exciting new careers—and yes, their educational paths, though different, both revolve around babies.

Here's how it all shakes down: Dr. Phillips loves babies so much that when her own babies matured into children, she got herself certified as a foster parent to care for newborns whose birth mothers found it necessary to place them for adoption. She positively adores caring for infants, giving them tons of TLC, and watching the development of their individuality. Dr. Phillips took the babies into her home, lavished them with love and attention for the first six to eight weeks of their lives, then joyfully handed them over to their new adoptive parents once a family was found for them.

Her daughter noticed mom's expertise at this cuddly line of work and christened Dr. Phillips "The Baby Whisperer." Do we even have to tell you she loves the name?

When Mr. Kite resigned from guiding jet airplanes to safe landings in 2004, he tried out the great American retirement. But like countless other career warriors, he found a life of leisure lacked substance. Watching reruns of "The Flintstones" may seem pleasurable for awhile, but sooner or later, most folks get bored. Mr. Kite did, so he took a cue from his wife—Sylvia Kite, RN, an intensive care nurse—and headed to Loma Linda University Medical Center as a volunteer in the emergency department.

Dr. Phillips also migrated to the field of health care. Her route was a bit more circuitous, but she got there nonetheless. In the course of her work with foster care babies, Dr. Phillips heard about a conference on developmental intervention for high-risk neonates, which was going to be held in San Francisco. Ironically, her seatmate on the plane turned out to be Diana Gigler, RN, a neonatal intensive care nurse from Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (LLUCH). Needless to say, they had quite a lot to talk about on the flight.

"There were a thousand people at the conference," Dr. Phillips recalls, "and all of them were focused on premature babies and how to make their care more

developmentally appropriate." Destiny was calling her name: Dr. Phillips made up her mind then and there that she was going to become a developmental specialist.

Because of her interest in premature babies, Dr. Phillips worked with Denise Winter, director of volunteer services at LLUCH, to start a volunteer snuggler program for the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) on 3700, and developed a training program for baby snugglers. What's a baby snuggler? A very special volunteer—highly trained and carefully screened—whose role is to snuggle hospitalized babies and make sure they get the human contact and attention they need to thrive, heal, and develop harmoniously for their age.

Mr. Kite met someone, too. After two years of volunteer service in the emergency department, he met a baby snuggler from unit 3700 at LLUCH and thought the concept sounded terrific. "I decided I wanted to do that," Mr. Kite recalls.

Not everyone can become a baby snuggler. When Mr. Kite first told Denise Winter about his ambition, she explained he would have to attend an intensely supervised program of interacting with children in the fifth floor activity room followed by additional training specific to the NICU. Since he was already a volunteer, he had already submitted to a criminal background check to be sure he was cleared to work with children. He was told his every action would be closely scrutinized to ensure that his behavior toward children was always safe, positive, and developmentally appropriate.

After passing the rigorous screening and orientation program—which Dr. Phillips had developed years earlier—with flying colors, Mr. Kite transferred to unit 3700, where he thoroughly enjoyed his service as a baby snuggler. Mr. Kite had already enrolled in the two-year nursing program at San Bernardino Valley College and earned his degree. Today he works on unit 3700 as a registered nurse, loving every minute of taking care of the hospitalized infants and making sure they receive the best care under the sun.

As for Dr. Phillips, she graduated with her bachelor of arts—cum laude, no less—from Loma Linda University in 1992 after her children were grown. Four years later, she snagged a master of arts in developmental psychology from California State University at San Bernardino. By then she knew that what she really wanted was to get her MD degree. She continued volunteering as a baby snuggler in the NICU while working on pre-med classes at LLU, then headed north and graduated from the University of California at Davis School of Medicine in 2004.

No sooner had the commence-

ment music stopped ringing in her ears than Dr. Phillips transferred to Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, where she completed her residency in pediatrics in 2007; made up her mind to spend the next three years completing a fellowship in neonatology from the same institution; and assisted in the revitalization of the development program for babies in the NICU. She'll finish the fellowship in 2010 and work with pre-term babies as a neonatologist after that.

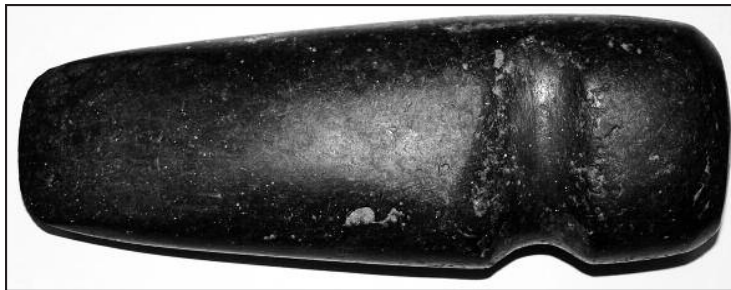
Denise Winter is all smiles as she thinks about the remarkable success her two baby lovers are enjoying. "Mr. Kite started as a volunteer and he became a nurse," she observes. "Dr. Phillips did the same thing, and she's a doctor. You never know where volunteering might lead!"

Dr. Phillips just might agree. "When I told my family I was planning to go to medical school in my 50s," she recalls, "my son asked, 'Mom, how old will you be

when you finish all of this?'

"Exactly the same age I'd be if I didn't," she replied.

Apparently good things happen to people who love babies.



Tom Kite's father found this prehistoric Native American stone tool, a finely carved axe head, at the site of a ruin on a ranch where the elder Mr. Kite was foreman. Tom fondly recalls spending his childhood in the alpine country between Flagstaff and Williams, Arizona. As an adult, he enjoys cuddling babies in the Loma Linda University Children's Hospital neonatal intensive care unit. "I don't know how else to say this," he shares, "but cuddling babies gives me a warm fuzzy feeling."

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School of Public Health graduate receives prestigious award

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

A 1981 Loma Linda University School of Public Health graduate, Sakeena Yacoobi, MPH, has been selected to receive the fourth annual Henry R. Kravis Prize in Leadership awarded by the Claremont McKenna College and Kravis Leadership Institute. Ms. Yacoobi is founder of the Afghan Institute of Learning.

The Kravis Prize, which carries a \$250,000 award designated to the honoree's organization, recognizes extraordinary leadership in the nonprofit sector. Ms. Yacoobi was selected for her outstanding record providing an estimated 350,000 women and children with access to education and health care each year.

The Kravis Prize will be presented to Ms. Yacoobi at ceremonies on March 31 in New York City.

Established in 2006, the Henry R. Kravis Prize in Leadership recognizes and celebrates extraordinary accomplishment and bold, visionary leadership in the nonprofit sector. The Kravis Prize is administered by Claremont McKenna College, the Kravis Leadership Institute, and Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis.

"It is important to understand that entrepreneurial spirit and leadership are just as vital to achievement in the not-for-profit world as they are in the private sector," said Mr. Kravis. "We are pleased and proud to recognize and celebrate the significant and inspirational work being done by Ms. Yacoobi and the Afghan Institute of Learning."

Ms. Yacoobi has spent the last 28 years providing education, training, and health care services to women and children in Afghanistan and Pakistan. One of her enduring contributions is focusing attention on the issue and importance of girls' education in Afghanistan.

Spiritual life, wholeness forum focuses on trauma

"Trauma, Spirituality, and the Dark Night of the Soul," is the topic for the next Health & Faith Forum, scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2009.

The presentation will be held from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. at Wong Kerlee Internatoinal Conference Center and will feature Joshua P. Morgan, MS, a PsyD intern at Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

Objectives for the presentation are to understand the connections between trauma and spirituality; explore the connections between trauma and the "dark night of the soul;" and appreciate the research literature regarding trauma and spirituality.

The program is sponsored by the Center for Spiritual Life & Wholeness and is moderated by Carla Gober, PhD, MS, director of the Center.

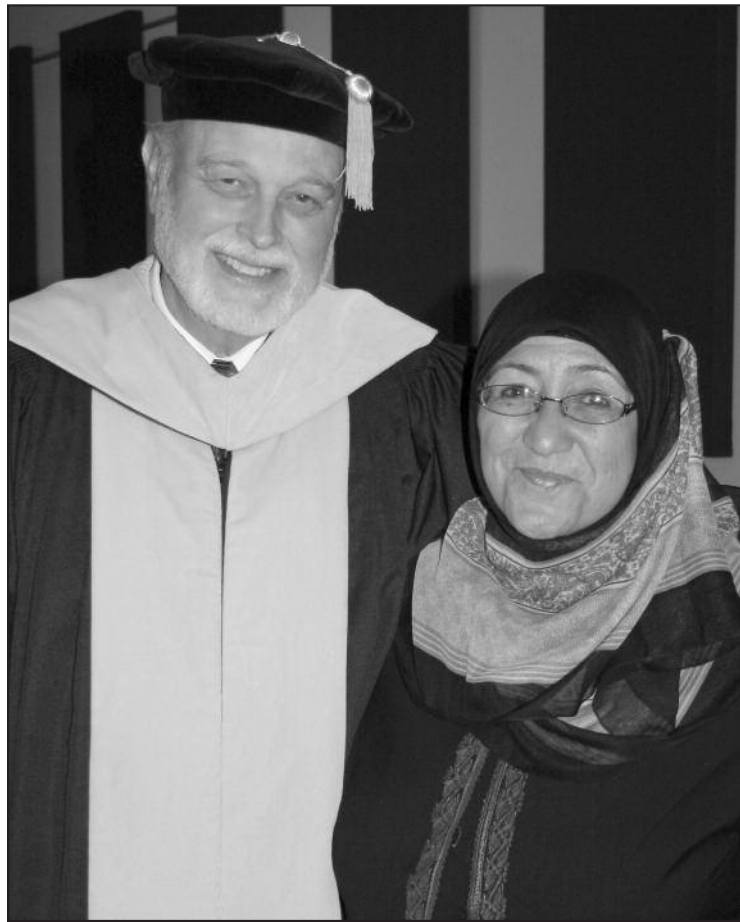
Born in Herat, Afghanistan, Ms. Yacoobi came to the United States in the 1970s and received her education at American universities. In 1990, she left a successful career as a professor and consultant in the United States and returned to Afghanistan during the Taliban's rule to work with her native people. Ms. Yacoobi founded the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL) in 1995 while working in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan. AIL's first program initiative was to establish learning centers in the refugee camps in response to the women's requests for educational opportunities for themselves and their children.

Ms. Yacoobi's institute grew and evolved to fulfill unmet needs and currently operates 41 women's learning/education centers, five health centers, and three mobile health clinics. Seventy percent of AIL's 450 staff members are Afghan women. Under her leadership, AIL has become one of the largest nonprofit organizations in Afghanistan and currently serves more than 350,000 women and children each year. The organization achieves this impact on a rela-

tively small budget of \$1.1 million per year, with a cost of \$3 per beneficiary.

Ms. Yacoobi's achievements demonstrate significant courage and persistence in the face of extensive obstacles to educating girls and women in Afghanistan. During the Taliban's rule, for example, the education of girls was prohibited. Dr. Yacoobi and the staff of AIL risked great personal harm in operating 80 underground home schools for 3,000 girls during the 1990s.

AIL's innovative and effective approaches serve as a model in the sector, and AIL actively assists in building the capacity of other organizations and entities. The concept of women's learning centers and AIL's interactive teaching methods have been replicated by many nonprofit organizations in Afghanistan as well as by government and educational institutions. AIL also provides training and technical assistance to small, local Afghan community-based organizations to help build the capacity of Afghanistan's civil society sector and increase the enrollment of female students.



Sakeena Yacoobi, MPH, poses with Loma Linda University president Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, following commencement services on June 15, 2008. Ms. Yacoobi was presented with the University's doctor of humanitarian service degree for her work in Afghanistan.



School, organizations bring cheer to LLUCH patients

Members of the sixth grade class (top photo) at Loma Linda Academy stopped by Loma Linda University Children's Hospital to bring gifts and goodwill to Children's Hospital patients. Members of the board of directors (above, left photo) of the Big Hearts for Little Hearts Guild celebrate another year of charitable activities to benefit the children of the Inland Empire at a special luncheon on December 17. Later that afternoon, the guild held its annual Tree of Hope celebration in the hospital lobby. Loma Linda University Children's Hospital played host to all kinds of holiday activities this Christmas season. Jayne Stanyon (above, right photo), founder of Heart to Heart, a nonprofit organization to promote organ donation, brings a gift and a smile to a hospitalized child. For information regarding the group's outreach and educational programs, visit the website at <www.heart-heart.net>.

'Come Unto Me' sculpture graces entrance to LLU Medical Center...

Continued from page 1

ing. The prayer was immediately followed by the remarks of Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, president of Loma Linda University, who expressed appreciation to everyone involved in bringing the sculpture to its new home. Dr. Hart especially thanked Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Domke for their commitment to extending Christ's healing and teaching ministry, and their generosity, which enabled the project to become a reality.

In her introduction of the artist, Ruthita J. Fike, MA, CEO and administrator, talked about her lengthy acquaintance with Victor Issa whom, she noted, is not only an internationally collected artist, but also an alumnus of Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, her own alma mater.

In his brief remarks, Mr. Issa thanked officials of Loma Linda University Medical Center for commissioning the installation, acknowledged members of his family for their love and support, and talked about the personal metamorphosis he experienced while working on the project.

Describing it as series of increasingly deeper stages of surrender to God, Mr. Issa said the "Come Unto Me" project challenged him technically, emotionally, and spiritually far beyond any other sculpture he has ever produced. He expressed appreciation to Gerald Winslow for offering wisdom and spiritual support at a very critical juncture. Mr. Issa said the three-and-a-half year process stripped him of self-sufficiency and taught him to rely on God instead of his own abilities.

In a brief artist's statement on the back of the commemorative program

that accompanied the unveiling, Mr. Issa declared his intentions in creating art through the three-dimensional medium of sculpture.

"I believe," he observed, "that just as God found fulfillment in creating the human race, He has endowed His creation with a similar need and ability to express our needs, our joys, our fears, and our hopes through the creative process. Through my work, I hope to uplift the soul by reflecting on the beautiful and the inspirational." Mr. Issa's website, <www.victorissa.com>, contains additional examples of his work as well as his blog on the state of world affairs and their relationship to creativity and the arts.

By far the most joyful part of the ceremony occurred when Dr. Winslow invited a handful of children to come to the front and pull the cord separating the sculpture installation from the large gold curtain hiding it from view. The children—the respective offspring of Daniel Fontoura, MBA, senior vice president and administrator of University Hospital, and Zareh Sarrafian, MBA, senior vice president and administrator of LLU Children's Hospital—gave it a good hard tug and watched as the curtain fell neatly to the ground.

After pulling the cord, the children scampered into the sculpture garden and began an immediate and impromptu demonstration of the newly installed artwork's enormous interactive potential. Some climbed onto the bench and sat beside Jesus, others held His hand, or petted the dogs. One little boy seemed to enjoy the opportunity to walk unhindered through the space in the warm sun.

Following the unveiling, Greg Cheek, MD, assistant professor of

medicine at the LLU School of Medicine, sang "Healing Love," the meditative hymn that has become the unofficial theme song of the Medical Center's quest to continue the healing ministry of Jesus Christ. He was accompanied by Don Benedicto, RN, charge nurse for unit 9100, at the piano.

The ceremony officially concluded with a benediction offered by Kathy McMillan, director of employee spiritual care, who thanked God for endowing Mr. Issa with the creative gift to bring this contemporary meditation on the mission and message of Jesus so vividly to life. Then she invited the audience to enter the sculpture garden and experience its subtle, yet powerful spiri-

tual message for themselves.

As if on cue, the audience rose to its feet and began a collective, yet highly individualistic, examination of the sculpture. Three charming little girls in bright red dresses—whom Mr. Issa had previously identified as his nieces—climbed into the lap of Jesus, reaching forward to caress His hair, hold His hand, or examine His eyes.

The artists hopes that viewers will see the following: "Adults, seemingly transfixed by the approachability of His person, reached out to touch the arm of the Messiah. The boundaries between symbol and Person vanish in the warmth of the moment. Perhaps that's the special genius of the sculptor's art; or is it the lingering afterimage of divine inspiration?"

"The heroic sufferings of Christ are all but eclipsed in this powerful image by the smile radiating from His face. Viewers respond by reaching out in admiration for this most singular individual; they want to express their love and gratitude in a tangible way. It seems they know Him, perhaps better today than ever before.

"This obscure little nook in the garden has been transformed into a sanctuary of peace. Prayers and praises rise to the heavens from this suddenly sacred place. Ultimately, Christ alone is worthy to receive them and interpret what they mean.

"The only signs of struggle in this image of high-handed serenity are two barely discernible, slit-like scars in the smiling Teacher's welcoming hands."



Two children take time to enjoy the sculpture, "Come Unto Me." Sculptor Victor Issa, who created the nine-figure installation on commission from Loma Linda University, envisioned a host of similar creative interactions when he designed the sculpture garden to appeal to people of all ages and backgrounds.

School of Medicine plans dedication service for students

A special dedication service for the School of Medicine class of 2012 and School of Medicine graduate program in the basic sciences will be held on Friday evening, February 13, at 7:30 p.m., in the Loma Linda University Church of Seventh-day Adventists.

Speaking at the event will be Randy Roberts, DMin, senior pastor of the University Church.

This year, 170 medical students and 20 graduate students will be dedicated for service. All interested individuals are invited to attend the ceremonies.

Next

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11125 Campus Street, Loma Linda

Tickets and information: (909) 795-4960

Kristen Cameron brings musical healing to patients with her harp

BY JAMES PONDER

Think of her as the 21st century female equivalent of King David.

Kristen Cameron may not herd sheep or kill marauding lions, but like the ancient emperor of Israel, she excels at plucking melodies from the strings of a harp.

At the invitation of Takkin Lo, MD, MPH, director of medical intensive care medicine at Loma Linda University Medical Center, Ms. Cameron recently brought her elegant 1920s Lyon & Healy semi-grand harp to perform a concert of holiday and traditional favorites for patients on units 7200 and 9100.

The effect on her audience was anything but semi grand—patients, guests, and staffers commented on the sublime aural ecstasy Ms. Cameron coaxed from her instrument. The music wafted through the units as a balm of calming, soothing energy designed to beguile the senses and promote healing and wellbeing.

“One nurse told me she does her job better when I play,” Ms. Cameron notes.

Dr. Lo predicted that effect when he invited Ms. Cameron to come to the units.

“We want to provide an environment where music can be part of the healing art,” he explains. “We also wanted to enhance the sense that we care for the emotional psyches of our patients, that this is part of our commitment to providing care for the whole person. We want our patients and their families to

know that, to experience that, when they come here.”

Ms. Cameron is no neophyte when it comes to facilitating the restorative properties of music. In addition to performing at LLUMC, she is a therapeutic harpist for music ministry at St. Bernardine’s Medical Center in San Bernardino and an in-demand performance artist at concerts, recitals, weddings, receptions, workshops, and other occasions. She holds a bachelor of music degree from the University of Redlands, and has completed postgraduate studies at the Royal School of Church Music in Croydon, England, as well as Pomona College and California State University, Long Beach.

The beneficial effects of music therapy are not imaginary. A series of evidence-based scientific studies—including a landmark article by Luisa Lopez of the University of Rome, published in *The Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* in 2005—have demonstrated that music enhances emotional wellness, which can have measurable positive outcomes for physical healing.

Dr. Lo doesn’t view music therapy as a stand-alone panacea for medical conditions, but he says it plays a valuable complementary role in the process of healing.

“The motto of Loma Linda University Medical Center is ‘to make man whole,’” he notes. “We employ the finest state-of-the-art technology for our critically ill

patients. Our staff’s philosophy is that this is our profession, and not just a job. We have an extremely competent group of critical care physicians and nurses here, and we reflect this commitment to the wholeness of our patients in all our activities. Music is a healing remedy. The beautiful holiday music that Kristen Cameron performed is great for our patients. Everyone stopped to listen to the music. It was wonderful!”

It took a bit of interdepartmental cooperation to bring Ms. Cameron to units 7200 and 9100. When Dr. Lo heard her tuning her harp in one

of the hallways of the Medical Center one morning, he asked whether she might be willing to play for patients on his units. Ms. Cameron said she would, so Dr. Lo asked Darlynn Willy, RN, director of patient care for the medical intensive care unit service line, to coordinate the details with Denise Winter, director of volunteer services at the Medical Center, since Ms. Cameron is a volunteer.

The first concert occurred on Thursday, December 4, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. on unit 7200 and approximately 45 minutes later on unit 9100.

But Dr. Lo insists that was only

the beginning. “We are making arrangements to schedule future visits by Ms. Cameron and her harp to coincide with the quiet hour,” he says. The quiet hour is a special time when lights go down and televisions are turned off throughout patient units every afternoon to enable patients to rest and recuperate with minimal interruption or distraction.

Persons interested in contacting Ms. Cameron for information about providing music for their event may contact her by phone at (909) 792-2494 or by e-mail at <highlander51@verizon.net>.



While her fingers play the sounds of holiday classics, Kristen Cameron lights up the room with her smile. Both patients and staff of Loma Linda University Medical Center’s units 7200 and 9100 commented about the calming, tranquil atmosphere her musical gifts brought to the units.

School of Pharmacy honors students for summer, autumn 2008 quarters

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Following is a listing of students who were named to the School of Pharmacy’s dean list and honor roll for the summer and autumn, 2008.

Summer 2008 dean’s list, class of 2009: Alem Abraha, Olukorede Ajiboye, Ana Blomberg, Emily Clark, Jennifer De Jesus, Landon Dean, Mai-Han Dinh, Benjamin Do, Bradley Douglas, Arvee Espidol, Karey Foote, Larisa Gunther, Nadia Hafezizadeh, Salomeh Harandi Najafi, Armin Hariri, Gregory Harrington, Lap Hoang, Randy Jimenez, Jennifer Kwan, Isaac Lee, Jessica Loughlin, Christopher Lucas, Tania Lucinian, Jose Martell, Rosalie McLaughlin, Sean McGrath, Noela Ndrekaj, Nga Nguyen, Norela Ocampo, Gaurang Patel, Eric Pham, Denise Poupa, Janssen Sacro, Amy Sanchez, Eiann Sha, Hillel Shand, Jessica Shen, Jessica Swaris, Tanya Taefi, Alexander Tran, Hanh Tran, Ngoc Tran, Tam Trieu, Kristin Vaughan, Tanida Vidhyorkorn, Jennifer Wu, Jennifer Young, and Stacia Young.

Autumn 2008 honor roll, class of 2009: Jeremy Evans, Megan Nguyen, Mariam Seddiqi, and Luan Vu.

Autumn 2008 dean’s list, class of 2012: Tamara Avetisyan, Amy Balog, Ciag-Tien Chau, Ryan Huntsman, Siwoon Kim, SunYoo Lee, Bryn Nguyen, Lucia Nguyen,

Jeong Oh, Ha Young Park, Minh Pham, Marissa Schroer, Aaron Solis, Yu Sun, Alison Wong, and Chui-Ching Yueng.

Autumn 2008 honor roll, class of 2012: Heinedine Aguilar, Kwaku Agyeman, Genevieve Aichelman, Adrian Aldasoro, Gregory Arnold, William Capeling, Erin Carpenter, Danielle Davis, Michelle Hoang, Arda Kerleshi, Mina Kim, Marcia Kwong, Joon Lee, Bill Ly, Kimberly Mamaril, Karen Nguyen, Kristie Nguyen, Phong Nguyen, ThoaiVy Nguyen, Jeffrey Pao, Fabian Rodriguez, Talin Setaghian, Mai Than, Trang Tran, Bless ValeCruz, Karin Vartanian, Thuy Vu, Laura Wysocki, Jessica Yee, Ulysses Yee, Hoi Yeung, and Katarzyna Zastawnik.

Autumn 2008 dean’s list, class of 2011: Jefmar Dickey, Scott Glenny, Blaire Heath, Caroline Nguyen, Oksana Niknafs, Lia Pop, Hong-Jen Shyr, Christine Wehtje-Sim, and David Whatton.

Autumn 2008 honor roll, class of 2011: Amanda Davis, Sherry Huang, Michael Ibrahim, Karisa Jongasma, Connie Lac, Anna Lee, Ti-Ya Lin, Andrae McCluskey, Nellie McKenzie, Sahar Naz, Melanie Nguyen, Gerard Rivera, Reginald Tayaben, Hong Tran, Phuong Tran, Jason Vest, and Stephanie Wan.

Autumn 2008 dean’s list, class

of 2010: Beth Becker, Jesal Bhakta, Ai-Huong Do, Nancy Fong, Ruzanna Gevorkian, Sheena Hafezizadeh, Hyun Kong, Vy Le, Maya Leiva, Anahita Mohammady, Steven Ng, Cham Nguyen, Lan Nguyen, Lih Nguyen, Stacy Pak, Liana Pham, Tuan Pham, Tiana Phan, Sandy Phung, Divaker Rastpgi, Alec Shifflett, Dewi Singgih, Huyentran Tran, Yen Trinh, and Wai-Tai Wong.

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Foote, Gregory Harrington, Randy Jimenez, Isaac Lee, Jose Martell, Megan Nguyen, Amy Sanchez, Mariam Seddiqi, Hillel Shand, Jessica Shen, Jessica Swaris, and Luan Vu.

Reportable crimes

The Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990 requires Loma Linda University to publish interim reports on campus crime activities. Listed below are the crimes reported for the months of October through December, 2008.

Type of Crime	Number of Crimes	Place of Crime
Vehicle burglary	6	Lower Lot T Lot A(2) Lot DP Artesia Street Lot DC
Grand theft auto	5	Lot A Lot J Lot C Lot DC Parking Structure
Trespassing	1	Medical Center
Threats	1	Nichol Hall
Burglary	4	FMO (2) White House Mt. View Plaza
Assault	3	Medical Center (2) BMC
Robbery	1	Loma Linda Inn

You can assist the department of security in maintaining a safe and secure environment by notifying security immediately at extension 911 if you see or know about a crime taking place.

Trustees actions of December 10, 2008, outlined

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

Following is a report of the Boards of Trustees from December 10, 2008.

Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center

The Board of Trustees appointed Mel Sauder, JD, MBA, as senior vice president for development and public affairs effective February 1, 2009. Mr. Sauder is currently serving as senior vice president for business development for Loma Linda University Medical Center. His new and expanded responsibilities will include philanthropy, public affairs, marketing, business development, and government relations.

The Board of Trustees received a report on the progress with the LLUAHSC strategic plan. The objectives for the process include: (1) develop LLUAHSC strategic direction and guiding principles that reaffirm and strengthen Mission, Vision, and Values; (2) support the development of strategic plans at the core entity level; and (3) ensure that LLUAHSC and core entity plans are aligned to combine strengths and maximize organizational synergies.

Major challenges facing Loma Linda today include a need for greater focus, with local and global distinction in select areas; a need to make quality and service excellence a driving priority across the organization; the critical need for greater teamwork and synergy; opportunities for greater partnership with both local and global communities; and a need to ensure that strong leadership and stewardship are in place to secure a sound future.

Next steps include developing priority initiatives and action plans before February Board; final approval of LLUAHSC strategic plan by the February Board; institute planning underway in 2009; all entities developing their 2010–2014 strategic plans; and new Board advisors.

The Boards of LLUAHSC and LLU voted to officially appoint two new advisors to the Boards: Don Livesay, president, Lake Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and Max Torkelsen II, president, North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Loma Linda University

Since Richard H. Hart, MD, DrPH, was named president in February 2008, administration and the Board of Trustees have considered various models of leadership for the University. At the meeting of the Board on December 10, it was voted to establish the position of provost and to appoint Ronald L. Carter, PhD, effective immediately. Dr. Carter has served the institution for 20 years, most recently as vice chancellor for academic affairs since October 2006. The provost of Loma Linda University will be the chief academic officer and will report to the president. As part of this new structure, administrators with the title of vice chancellor will be changed to vice president. There will no longer be a chancellor position.

At the request of the presidents of Atlantic Union College (AUC) and

the Atlantic Union of Seventh-day Adventists, an affiliation between Loma Linda University and Atlantic Union College is being considered. The Board enabled University administration to draft a proposed affiliation agreement and financial pro forma to be considered by the Board of Trustees in January 2009.

The following academic appointments were approved: Ahmed M. Abou-Zamzam, MD; head, vascular division, department of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, School of Medicine; effective December 10, 2008; S. Eric Anderson, PhD; chair, department of health policy and management, School of Public Health; effective October 1, 2008; Georgia W. Hodgkin, EdD; associate chair, department of nutrition and dietetics, School of Allied Health Professions; effective July 1, 2003; Nakul V. Karkare, MBBS; head, arthroplasty service, department of orthopaedic surgery, School of Medicine; effective October 16, 2008; and Yiming Li, DDS; director, Center for Dental Research, School of Dentistry; effective January 1, 2004.

The Board approved a major revision to operating policy pertaining to student disabilities. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 states that: "No otherwise qualified person with a disability in the United States...shall, solely by reason of...disability, be denied the benefits of, or be excluded from participation in, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." This policy will be posted online in the administrative handbook and printed in the *TODAY* publication.

A new department in the School of Science and Technology was approved—department of biophysics and bioengineering. Potential faculty, programs, and degrees are currently being evaluated and will be presented to the Board at the appropriate time.

The following name changes were approved: a) School of Medicine division of "adult emergency medicine" to "general emergency medicine"; b) School of Allied Health Professions department, program, and degrees from "speech-language pathology and audiology" to "communication sciences and disorders"; and c) School of Public Health MPH and DrPH programs in "international health" to "global health."

The following new programs were approved: a) bachelor of science in health care administration—online, School of Allied Health Professions; b) master of science in radiologist assistant—online, School of Allied Health Professions; and c) doctor of public health in health education—off campus in Fresno, School of Public Health.

A report about the University's reaccreditation process with Western Association of Schools and Colleges was presented to the Board. The capacity and preparatory review occurred in October 2008 and the educational effectiveness review is scheduled for March 2010. The Board will be kept apprised as the reaccredita-

tion process advances.

Enrollment for fall quarter 2008 was 4,115 head count. These numbers reflect a continued growth in all schools. Tuition and fees for the 2009/2010 academic year were approved. On the average, these represent approximately a 4 to 6 percent increase. Individual schools have been allowed to adjust their rates to match national trends.

Loma Linda University Medical Center

Ruthita Fike, MA, chief executive officer, shared how 2008 has been an "unprecedented year" with its numerous challenges. She outlined challenges including (1) the national economic situation has compounded the California state budget shortfall and served to have a great impact on the volume reimbursements and financials of Loma Linda University Medical Center; and (2) the Loma

Linda University Heart and Surgical Hospital was purchased. The activation process is in full swing with opening on January 6, 2009. Ms. Fike continued by sharing several recent events at the Medical Center, which consisted of the following: (1) the Heart and Surgical Hospital open house, (2) "A Day in the Life" event at the Heart and Surgical Hospital, (3) Speaking of Women's Health Conference, (4) Thanksharing event, (5) PossAbilities recognition event, and (6) the annual Children's Hospital KFRG/Stater Bros. bicycle giveaway. She also presented an update on the Medical Plaza at Beaumont and the Murrieta Hospital groundbreaking event. She finished with a short update on the progress of the 2009 strategic plan.

Steve Mohr, MBA, senior vice president for finance, presented the October 2008 financials. October 2008 showed a decline in net assets of

\$6,478,178, which was primarily due to a \$1.8 million mark-to-market valuation charge on LLUMC's interest rate swap agreements and \$5.2 million in unrealized losses on LLU Foundation investments. Additionally, a lower census of 570 compared to a budget of 605 and higher than budgeted write-offs contributed to the net loss for the month. In the month of October, management successfully renegotiated its Medi-Cal inpatient contract with the State of California, which will provide very significant multi-year rate increases for services provided. Management continues to focus on revenue enhancement (sources and reimbursement) as well as reducing operating expenses as it executes its back-to-budget plan. However, management expects additional significant mark-to-market valuation adjustments on its investments and swap contracts in the coming months given the current economic environment.



Sports luncheon raises \$39,835 for PossAbilities

It was a hard-won battle, but when the dust finally settled on the sports trivia contest at the first annual sponsored sports luncheon held last October to raise money for the PossAbilities program at LLUMC East Campus Hospital, the team from Loma Linda University Medical Center edged out the contenders from Loma Linda University Health Care in a close match. Team captains Kent Hansen (LLUMC) and Roger Hadley (LLUHC) set a very competitive pace but refused to divulge the contents of pep rallies they delivered just before the contest began. The luncheon, which featured track and field legend and Olympic gold medalist Billy Mills, raised a whopping \$39,835 for the program. The check was presented to Michael Jackson, MPH, senior vice president and administrator, LLUMC East Campus, at an awards ceremony on December 2, 2008. The funds were generously donated by a number of personal and organizational donors. Pictured from left are Nikki Gaitan, executive assistant, LLUHC administration; Mr. Jackson; Willie Stewart, PossAbilities director; Garry FitzGerald, MD, executive director, LLUHC business development; and Molly Riter, senior marketing specialist.



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Graduate student tracks rattlesnakes in Loma Linda Hills

BY JAMES PONDER

It's 2:30 on a Friday afternoon and Aaron "Rattler" Corbit—he of the fierce conviction that rattlesnakes deserve protection since this was their habitat before it was ours—tromps through the hills behind a Loma Linda neighborhood. He's hoping to hear a series of high-pitched squeaks from a geeky looking electronic tracking device he holds in his right hand. The sound will guide him to the location of two red diamond rattlesnakes he's hoping to find.

I'm traipsing along to get the story. I love adventure, so when Aaron invited me to invade snake-land in the name of science, I didn't think twice. Perhaps I should have, but I'm curious to find out what the buzz is all about. I'm also baffled as to why Aaron thinks trudging through underbrush so thick you can't see your feet is a good idea in snaky terrain.

Aaron claims it's all for a good cause. He says something I'm pretty sure I already knew, namely, that most people don't like it when venomous serpents invade their homes. He says that what we're doing this afternoon will actually help researchers in the earth and biological sciences program at Loma Linda University find out more about interactions between humans and rattlesnakes, and maybe help reduce dangerous encounters in the future.

The individual snakes we're looking for this afternoon are already well known to Aaron. A few months earlier, he captured both snakes after local residents contacted him to complain that the critters had slithered onto their property. Aaron captured the snakes, took them back to the lab, anesthetized them, and inserted radio transmitters under their skin. Then he returned the animals to an area not far from where he found them.

He heads back every few days to relocate the snakes using the tracking device, and log their locations into a chart he's compiling. When the study is completed, Aaron will know, with a high degree of accuracy, how far individual rattlers travel and how frequently they return to human habitations. He assures me that no snakes are harmed in the process and that he will remove the transmitters and stitch the snakes back up once the study is over. Then he'll release them into their home turf. Boy, will they have a story to tell their grandkids!

Right now, Aaron is getting a beep from the transmitter. He says our target critters could be anywhere in this vicinity, and sweeps a wide arc with his hand to indicate a sandy valley half a mile wide by a mile long. He aims the buglike antenna towards the west and sets off. I follow behind, watching every step.

Don't blame the snakes for encroaching on us. They're merely looking for something to eat and drink. They actually help humanity by eating mice, rats, and gophers: scientists insist that rattlesnakes keep a variety of diseases—like hantavirus, black plague, and other nightmare epidemics—at bay. These prehistoric pit vipers may look and sound fright-

ening, but they're primordial pest controllers par excellence.

Loma Linda's native rattlesnake, the red diamond, is surprisingly attractive. Not Taj Majal or Big Sur sunset gorgeous, but impeccably appointed in delicate scales and black and white tail bands. They're smart, too. Scientists call them *Crotalus ruber*, which translates from Latin as "red rattle." Reds come in various shades of brown, tan, burnt orange, even brick red.

We've been stomping around for 10 minutes, and the only wildlife I've seen are a pair of white moths doing an ornate mating dance in mid-air. They flutter and swoop in a charming display of aerial amorosity. I disengage from the snake hunt long enough to capture an image of love among the lepidoptera. *Tres romantique!*

Aaron motions for me to freeze. I obey without argument. The first snake—the one he designates Number 6—is right here. Unfortunately, it's hiding in a matted pile of brush and we can't see him. Even so, Number 6 is within striking distance, and that's a little disconcerting. Aaron moves in for a closer scan. This time, he pinpoints the snake's exact location. We still can't find him!

How come I had to write about poisonous snakes, I'm asking myself. Why not the lifecycle of the praying mantis, or why skunks smell funky?

Aaron's tracker is screaming now. We're right on top of the snake—literally inches away—yet we can't find him. Aaron gives me a strange look before shaking his head and backing away.

"The snake," he says in slow motion, "is . . . gone. He must be underground. So close, but just out of reach."

"Whew!" I exclaim. "That was close, er, uh, I mean, too bad he got away!"

"No worries," Aaron insists. "I know where he is so I can mark him on my chart."

After the obligatory chart marking, we head back toward the cars. Halfway there, Aaron turns the tracker back on to search for Number 3. As we walk, he explains that there are 11 snakes in his study. There were 13, but one died, and



Aaron Corbit, a graduate student from the department of earth and biological sciences in the Loma Linda University School of Science and Technology, poses with Number 3, a female red diamond rattlesnake, in the hills of Loma Linda. Number 3 is one of 11 snakes Aaron is studying to determine the frequency and location of human/serpent interactions in the local terrain. Despite her intimidating appearance, Number 3 is a gentle soul with a peace-loving disposition.

another disappeared. It may have wandered out of range. Number 3 has been involved in the study since last summer. She likes to travel.

I stay down in the valley while Aaron follows the beeps up the side of the hill.

The slopes are dense with brittle-bush, non-native mustard, buckwheat, and other plants. If anything, the groundcover is denser here than the place we just left.

All of a sudden, Aaron yells for me to run up the hill. He's found Number 3 right where she was a week ago. I trudge through waist high underbrush, and try to avoid stepping on snakes and gopher holes. The slope is steep; I'm out of breath.

"Where is she?" I gasp.

"Right there," Aaron replies, pointing to a small depression the size of a basketball at the base of a dead shrub.

I follow the sweep of his arm and, sure enough, a docile-looking Number 3 returns my gaze with a calm, disinterested look. She takes it in stride, hoping we'll go away so she can resume her vigil for lunch to come

by. I'm amazed at how well she's camouflaged. I would have walked right by without a clue.

Aaron grabs his snake stick, and lifts Number 3 out of the hole. She halfheartedly protests with a shake of her tail or two, then settles onto the loop and lets me take a picture. A moment later, Aaron places dear old Number 3 back on the ground, and slithers back to take up her position in the hole. I mumble goodbye to both

of them, then pick my way back down the hill to the car.

You can bet your boots I'm looking for snakes in the grass at every turn.

Got a rattlesnake in your neighborhood? Don't panic, call Aaron at (909) 801-1601. Check out his website at <www.lomalindarrattlesnakes.com> to learn more about our snaky friends and see where the rattler hotspots are in the area.



How do you find a snake that would rather not be found? By electronic radio tracking, of course! Aaron Corbit aims his finding device in the direction of a loud beep. Moments later, he grabbed his snake stick and came up with Number 3, a red diamond rattlesnake whose migratory patterns he's been studying since the summer of 2008. If you see a snake in Loma Linda or the hills behind the town, call Aaron at (909) 801-1601.

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TODAY

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